budget subsidy. In addition, during the visit of H.E. Mr. Hamid Karzai, Chairman of then Afghan Interim Administration to India in February this year, Prime Minister had announced an assistance of US $ 10 million for various project related assistance to Afghanistan. Some of the major projects that have been implemented include supply of medical stores and medical services; artificial limbs center in Kabul; gifting of 50 buses to the Afghan Government; training of Afghan diplomats at the Foreign Service Institute in New Delhi; deputation of two English Language teachers to Afghanistan; computerization of Afghan Foreign Ministry; setting up of computer training center in Kabul, and training of Afghan Police Officers and cadets in India. Projects under consideration include in the fields of Water and Power, Agriculture, Education, Information and Broadcasting, and Road Construction.

Government is also in the process of finalizing details for handing over of three aircraft from Air India to Ariana Afghan Airlines.

Government has also committed to provide 1 million tonnes of wheat as food aid. The operationalization of this commitment has faced some transit related issues. Government is now discussing with the World Food Programme options to operationalize part of this commitment in alternative forms, such as high protein biscuits for school feeding programme.

Atrocities against minorities in Pakistan

†211. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Pakistan main alpsankhyakon ka jeena doobhar", published in Rashtriya Sahara dated May 27, 2002; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the steps Government propose to take at their level to check the atrocities against minorities and help them living normal life ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have seen the report titled, "Pakistan main alpsankhyakon ka jeena doobhar" appearing in Rashtriya Sahara on May 27, 2002. Discrimination against minority communities in Pakistan is built into the very structure of the Pakistan State. This has been witnessed in the practice of separate electorates for minority communities, and the use of Pakistan's "anti-blasphemy laws" to persecute religious minorites in Pakistan. The international community is fully aware and finds unacceptable the influence of religious extremism and obscurantism in Pakistan, and the existence of anti-minority practices and policies of the State.

Efforts to check cross-border terrorism

212. SHRI S. K. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the type of diplomatic and military efforts which Government have undertaken to check and tackle the problem of cross-border terrorism in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : Government are firmly resolved to take all necessary measures to defeat Pakistan's sponsorship of cross-border terrorism. Government have been appropriately and effectively bringing to the attention of the international community facts pertaining to Pakistan's sponsorship of cross-border terrorism in J & K and other parts of India. The matter has also been raised during high level interactions with the world leaders, who have expressed strong support for India's firm commitment and determination to resist terrorism until it is decisively crushed, rejecting any justification for terrorist violence.